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Information about site contaminants
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www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaq.htm



DEP finds arsenic in residential & commercial soils in Vineland

Soil sampling conducted by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Site Remediation Program in August 2014 near the former Kil-Tone Company pesticide plant revealed arsenic contamination above state cleanup standards at 14 residential and commercial properties. At ten of the 14 properties, the elevated levels of arsenic were found in the top six inches of surface soil. Elevated levels of lead were also found in soils at six residential and commercial properties, five of which also exhibited elevated levels of arsenic. DEP has notified the residents and business owners of their sampling results, as well as Vineland City and local and state health officials.

DEP tested soils at the former Kil-Tone Company at 527 East Chestnut Avenue and nearby properties after it learned about the former pesticide plant as a result of environmental work at an adjacent property undergoing redevelopment. The former Kil-Tone Company site is currently owned by Urban Manufacturing LLC, also known as Urban Sign and Crane, which purchased the property in 2008 for the manufacturing of commercial signs.

EPA to evaluate properties for interim action

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will conduct additional sampling and/or evaluate conditions at residential and commercial properties sampled by DEP to determine whether interim actions are necessary to prevent public exposure to elevated levels of arsenic and lead. EPA will also attempt to obtain access to properties that DEP was unable to sample in August. Interim actions may include property use restrictions, capping contaminated areas with asphalt, soil or other materials, and/or limited soil removal.

DEP referred the Kil-Tone Company site to EPA on November 14, 2014 for removal action consideration under the federal Comprehensive Environmental Response and Cleanup Liability Act (CERCLA). DEP works with EPA to obtain federal resources to address contaminated sites throughout the state that require significant immediate and long-term remedial measures.

Residents & workers are advised to avoid contact with contaminated soil

Until further testing can be performed, New Jersey state health officials are advising residents and workers with contaminated soil at their properties and work sites to avoid contact with bare soil. Residents should remove their shoes before entering their homes and workers should attempt to avoid tracking soil into buildings. Regular damp mopping and damp dusting of interior surfaces will help decrease the amount of dust in the indoor air. Residents (and particularly children) should wash their hands thoroughly after coming inside, and before eating.

Most of the residential properties are covered by lawns that should provide an effective short-term barrier to contaminants in the soil. Notable exceptions are a few residential properties with vegetable gardens. Residents (**that have confirmed soil contamination at their properties?**) are advised not disturb garden soils until additional soil sampling and analysis are completed.

August 2014 Soil Sampling Results

Arsenic contamination was found in the soils at 14 residential/commercial properties at levels above DEP's residential/non-residential soil cleanup standard of 19 parts per million (ppm), a standard that is based on the naturally occurring "background" level of

(over)

Former Kil-Tone Company Site

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this metal in soil. Arsenic was detected as high as 83 ppm in the surface soil at one residential property, and as high as 740 ppm in the surface soil at the former Kil-Tone Company. Lead was detected as high as 1,100 ppm in surface soil at one residential property, above DEP's soil cleanup standard of 400 ppm for this metal.

Ground water sampling revealed there was up to 14,000 parts per billion (ppb) of arsenic in the shallow water table located about 15 feet below ground surface. The arsenic contamination in the shallow ground water does not present a significant health threat because residences and commercial businesses receive their potable water supplies from the local public water purveyor; however, several commercial wells remain in operation in the area. Sampling of the surface water and sediments of Tarklin Branch located off site revealed the waterway has been impacted by arsenic. The commercial wells and Tarklin Branch will be investigated further.

Kil-Tone Company Site History

The Kil-Tone Company manufactured arsenic-based pesticides between the late 1910s and the late 1930s. LERCO, located across the street from the former Kil-Tone Company site, has operated as a fuel distribution depot since the 1930s, and contained several above ground storage tanks with secondary containment. During remedial work to address petroleum contamination on its property, LERCO representatives discovered elevated levels of arsenic and lead in the soil and ground water. Soil sampling at the LERCO property revealed concentrations of arsenic up to 20,500 ppm and concentrations of lead up to 28,700 ppm. LERCO attributed the high arsenic and lead concentrations to the former Kil-Tone pesticide manufacturing operations, prompting DEP to use federal grant funds to perform the recent soil and ground water sampling in Vineland.

* For information about site contaminants, please visit: www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaq.html

Glossary

Arsenic: A metallic element most commonly occurring as a gray crystal, but also found as a yellow crystal and in other forms. Arsenic and its compounds are highly poisonous and are used to make insecticides, weed killers, and various alloys.

Background: Levels of hazardous substances in the environment that are either naturally occurring, from an off-site source or a result of general contamination in the area. These values are usually considered during a site investigation or cleanup.

Cap: A type of engineering control that typically consists of a layer of impermeable or semi-permeable material, such as soil, clay, asphalt or synthetic liner, placed over a contaminated area or waste fill. The cap protects against direct contact and/or prevents rain from penetrating and spreading the contamination.

Cleanup: Remedial measures taken to address a release or potential release of hazardous substances that could affect public health or the environment. The term is often used interchangeably with remedial action, interim remedial measure, and construction.

Containment: Actions to limit or prevent discharges or the spread of contamination.

Ground Water: Subsurface water that fills pores between materials such as sand, soil or gravel.

Interim Action: A measure taken to stabilize a site until final cleanup measures can be implemented. It may include excavation of contaminated soil, installation of a temporary cap, or a variety of other measures.

Lead: A soft, bluish-gray metal that is very durable and resistant to corrosion. It was once commonly used in pipes, solder, roofing, paint, and antiknock compounds in gasoline, but its use in these products has been curtailed because of its toxicity.

Metals: Elements such as mercury, chromium, cadmium, arsenic and lead. They may be harmful to living things at low concentrations and can accumulate in the food chain.

Parts per billion (ppb)/Parts per million (ppm): Units of concentration used to express the levels of contaminants at a site undergoing a remedial investigation or a cleanup.

Potable Water: Water that is safe for drinking and cooking.

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